

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An RUV, recreational utility vehicle, suitable for on-road and off-road multi-terrain use, said RUV comprising:

a longitudinally elongated frame;

front and rear suspensions coupled to and spaced longitudinally along said

5 frame;

a longitudinally elongated multi-place saddle seat assembly on said frame, said multi-place saddle seat assembly accommodating at least two riders in tandem, namely an operator driver and a passenger, said multi-place saddle seat assembly having first and second sections, wherein said first section seats the driver, and said 10 second section is aft of said first section and seats the passenger;

said frame being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said multi-place saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

front and rear pairs of laterally spaced wheels coupled to said front and rear suspensions, respectively, said front and rear pairs of wheels being spaced apart by 15 a wheelbase, said wheelbase being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said frame and said multi-place saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

said front and rear suspensions being sufficiently sized and sprung to accommodate said wheelbase and said frame and said multi-place saddle seat 20 assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

a pair of elongated multi-place foot board assemblies on said frame on laterally opposite sides of said multi-place saddle seat assembly, said multi-place foot board assemblies having a first pair of foot rests positioning the feet of the driver, and a second pair of foot rests positioning the feet of the passenger, said 25 second pair of foot rests being aft of said first pair foot rests; and

a pair of grip handles on laterally opposite sides of said multi-place saddle seat assembly for gripping by the passenger.

2. The RUV according to claim 1 wherein said grip handles are mounted to said multi-place saddle seat assembly.

3. The RUV according to claim 1 wherein said grip handles are mounted to said frame.

4. The RUV according to claim 1 wherein said grip handles are laterally spaced from said multi-place saddle seat assembly.

5. The RUV according to claim 1 wherein said grip handles are mounted to a rack assembly on said RUV.

6. An RUV, recreational utility vehicle, suitable for on-road and off-road multi-terrain use, said RUV comprising:

a longitudinally elongated frame;

front and rear suspensions coupled to and spaced longitudinally along said

5 frame;

a longitudinally elongated multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly on said frame, said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly accommodating at least two riders in tandem, namely an operator driver and a passenger, said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly having first and second sections at different 10 levels, wherein said first section seats the driver, and said second section is aft of and higher than said first section and seats the passenger;

said frame being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

front and rear pairs of laterally spaced wheels coupled to said front and rear 15 suspensions, respectively, said front and rear pairs of wheels being spaced apart by a wheelbase, said wheelbase being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said frame and said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

said front and rear suspensions being sufficiently sized and sprung to 20 accommodate said wheelbase and said frame and said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem; and

25 a pair of elongated multi-place foot board assemblies on said frame on laterally opposite sides of said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly, said multi-place foot board assemblies having a first pair of foot rests positioning the feet of the driver, and a second pair of foot rests positioning the feet of the passenger, said second pair of foot rests being aft of said first pair of foot rests.

7. The RUV according to Claim 6, wherein said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly is a single unitary member having a transition portion extending upwardly and rearwardly from said first section to said second section.

8. The RUV according to Claim 7, wherein said transition portion has recessed portion and locates the rump of the driver straddling said multi-place saddle seat assembly.

9. The RUV according to Claim 6, wherein said second section comprises a raised shoulder extending upwardly from the second section and locating the rump of the passenger straddling said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat.

10. The RUV according to Claim 9, wherein said raised shoulder has a recessed portion.

11. The RUV according to Claim 6, wherein said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly comprises first and second different members providing said first and second sections, respectively.

12. The RUV according to Claim 11, wherein said first and second members face each other at an interface having a step change from a first level to a higher second level.

13. The RUV according to Claim 6, wherein said multi-place saddle seat comprises a third section in tandem with said first and second section and aft of said first and second sections, wherein said third section lies in a third horizontal plane spaced above said first and second horizontal planes, such that the combination of said first, second and third sections provides a tri-planar tri-level saddle seat construction.

14. The RUV according to Claim 6, further comprising a divider between said first and second sections and extending upwardly from said first and second saddle seats

and locating the rump of the driver, and also locating the legs of the passenger straddled on each side thereof.

15. The RUV according to Claim 14, wherein said divider includes a handle for gripping by the passenger.

16. The RUV according to Claim 6, further comprising a pair of raised shoulders each extending upwardly from said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat, a first of said shoulders being a divider between said first and second sections and locating the rump of the driver and also locating the legs of the passenger straddled on each side thereof, 5 the second of said shoulders being behind the second section and locating the rump of the passenger.

17. An RUV, recreational utility vehicle, suitable for on-road and off-road multi-terrain use, said RUV comprising:

a longitudinally elongated frame;

front and rear suspensions coupled to and spaced longitudinally along said

5 frame;

a longitudinally elongated multi-place saddle seat assembly on said frame, said multi-place saddle seat assembly accommodating at least two riders in tandem, namely an operator driver and a passenger, said multi-place saddle seat assembly having first and second sections, wherein said first section seats the driver, and said 10 second section is aft of said first section and seats the passenger;

said frame being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said multi-place saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

front and rear pairs of laterally spaced wheels coupled to said front and rear suspensions, respectively, said front and rear pairs of wheels being spaced apart by 15 a wheelbase, said wheelbase being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said frame and said multi-place saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

said front and rear suspensions being sufficiently sized and sprung to accommodate said wheelbase and said frame and said multi-place saddle seat 20 assembly and the at least two riders in tandem; and

a pair of elongated multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies on said frame on laterally opposite sides of said multi-place saddle seat assembly, said multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies having first and second pairs of foot

25 rests at different levels, wherein said first pair of foot rests positions the feet of the driver, and said second pair of foot rests is aft of and higher than said first pair of foot rests and positions the feet of the passenger.

18. The RUV according to Claim 17, wherein each of said multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies is a single unitary member having a transition portion extending upwardly and rearwardly from the respective first foot rest to the respective second foot rest.

19. The RUV according to Claim 17, wherein each of said second pair of foot rests comprises a pocket, each of said pockets locating the toes of the passenger's foot.

20. The RUV according to Claim 17, wherein the second pair of foot rests comprise toe supports extending rearwardly and locating the toes of the passenger.

21. The RUV according to Claim 20, wherein the toe supports extend over the toes of the passenger.

22. The RUV according to Claim 17, wherein said first pair of foot rests each comprise a raised rib extending under and locating the feet of the operator driver.

23. The RUV according to Claim 17, wherein said second pair of foot rests 5 each comprise a raised rib extending under and locating the feet of the passenger.

24. An RUV, recreational utility vehicle suitable for on-road and off-road multi-terrain use, said RUV comprising:

a longitudinally elongated frame;

front and rear suspensions coupled to and spaced longitudinally along said

5 frame;

a longitudinally elongated multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly on said frame, said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly accommodating at least two riders in tandem, namely an operator driver and a passenger, said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly having first and second sections at different 10 levels, wherein said first section seats the driver, and said second section is aft of and higher than said first section and seats the passenger;

15 said frame being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem; front and rear pairs of laterally spaced wheels coupled to said front and rear suspensions, respectively, said front and rear pairs of wheels being spaced apart by a wheelbase, said wheelbase being sufficiently longitudinally elongated to accommodate said frame and said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem;

20 said front and rear suspensions being sufficiently sized and sprung to accommodate said wheelbase and said frame and said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and the at least two riders in tandem; and

25 a pair of elongated multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies on said frame on laterally opposite sides of said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly, said multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies having first and second pairs of foot rests at different levels, wherein said first pair of foot rests positions the feet of the driver, and said second pair of foot rests is aft of and higher than said first pair of foot rests and positions the feet of the passenger;

30 wherein said different level first and second pairs of foot rests of said multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies compensates said different level first and second sections of said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly.

25. The RUV according to Claim 24 comprising in combination a pair of grip handles on laterally opposite sides of said multi-place multi-planar saddle seat assembly and above said multi-place multi-planar foot board assemblies for gripping by the passenger.